

After several years of planning, the celebrations to commemorate 150 years since Gabriel Read's discovery of gold are now just one week away! The full programme of events is online at www.celebrategold.co.nz.

Official Opening

The official opening of the celebrations will take place at the Gabriel's Gully Reserve at 10.30am on Saturday 19 March. This will be marked by the arrival of those who have travelled for four days on foot from Dunedin to Lawrence, sleeping in woolsheds along the way. Also arriving will be those who have ridden on horseback from Dunedin following the trail that Gabriel Read took to reach Lawrence. Following the opening ceremony, the festivities will begin in the gully.

While the official opening is being held on the Saturday, be sure not to miss *The Drama of the Tuapeka* on the Friday night. *The Drama of the Tuapeka* is a spectacular full-scale production on the goldfields and includes a cast of almost 90. It will take its audience on a journey that will traverse: the formation of the land and the precious metal within it told through Maori legend; the discovery of gold and the onset of the gold rush; the drama of the lawless Garrett Gang; the hard road the Chinese miners trod; the merchants and their boom time trade; farming and its place down through the years; and the vision of the future.

The Drama of the Tuapeka is at the Gabriel's Gully Historic Reserve from 6.30pm to 8.15pm and entry is by way of a gold coin donation.

Streetscape upgrade complete in time for celebrations

The Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board as well as local community groups and individuals have contributed to a major enhancement of the Lawrence main street area in time for next week's celebrations.

This work has included an upgrade to Ross Place with new streetlights, the undergrounding of the power supply, and new seats, planters and rubbish bins more in keeping with the town's heritage values; a new carpark and an upgrade to the entrance to Gabriel's Gully Road; a new parapet wall over Hospital Creek, and the establishment of a Gabriels Gully walking track (more information on this over the page).



The Lawrence Lions have been involved in repainting picnic amenities provided at each end of the Lawrence township and installing picnic tables at a new redeveloped green area in the central town area.

The Lawrence Heritage Trust played a role in saving and relocating an old miner's cottage to Ross Place, while the Department of Conservation has focused on tidying up the Gabriel's Gully area.

It is fantastic to see the community work together on this project which certainly has the township looking proud in time for the 150-year celebrations.



The Community Board has driven these projects, however, various community groups and individuals have also contributed immensely.

The Tuapeka-Lawrence Community Company have taken on the ongoing care of the new planters in the main street, which have replaced wine barrel planters previously installed and serviced by the community.

They also replanted an avenue of Silver Birch trees to replicate a look of the past. The Community Company played a major role with labour in many aspects of the project, and also provided useful feedback on its overall direction.



INSIDE

THIS ISSUE

One week to go!

Official Opening

Lawrence streetscape upgrade complete

New Gabriel's Gully walkway officially opened

Stamper Battery

New Gabriel's Gully Walking Track

Clutha Mayor Bryan Cadogan along with local landowner Malcolm Ritchie officially opened the new Gabriel's Gully Walking Track on Wednesday 9 March.

The 4km walking track is a project of the Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board, which has received a \$9,000 grant from the Otago Regional Council, along with many hours of voluntary labour and support from various members of the community.

The track begins near the new carpark at the entrance to Gabriel's Gully. It follows the east side of the gully past the point where Gabriel Read first discovered gold then on to the main Gabriel's Gully Celebration site at the Goldfield's Park.



Photos (Top l to r): Tuapeka Lawrence Community Company Chairman Eddie Fitzgerald, Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board Chair Geoff Davidson, Mayor Bryan Cadogan, local landowner Malcolm Ritchie and local Councillor Geoff Blackmore. (Below): Mayor Bryan Cadogan praises the new walking track shortly before its official opening. More information about the Stamping Battery in shot is below.



GABRIEL'S GULLY
150TH ANNIVERSARY

GABRIEL'S GULLY

LAWRENCE, NEW ZEALAND
18-21 MARCH 2011 • OTAGO ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

www.celebrategold.co.nz

Stamper Battery complete

The Tuapeka-Lawrence Community Company has completed its restoration project of an old Stamper Battery, which has been erected at the new carpark at the entrance to Gabriel's Gully.

A Stamper Battery is a large machine with a block of metal stampers used for crushing quartz in the gold mining era.

The remains of this battery were discovered in the hills behind Waitahuna by a farmer looking for a lost dog. The Tuapeka-Lawrence Community Company took on the task of recovering what remained of the battery. During the following nine years, research, planning, permission from relevant authorities, archaeological investigations and funding applications were successfully undertaken.

Look out for the official Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Programme. It is available online at www.celebrategold.co.nz or if you require a hard copy it is available at Information Centres throughout the Clutha District.

Contact: 5 Peel St, Lawrence 9532, Ph 03 485 9909,

Email: jeanette.paterson@cluthadc.govt.nz

For more information, visit www.celebrategold.co.nz



Clutha District Council

